



EXPLORING SOUTHEAST ASIA: A JOURNEY THROUGH ART AND TIME

Most museums in Singapore tend to be parsimonious with caption information, so it is a pleasant surprise to see, literally, walls of text at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts' (Nafa) exhibition.

I get a bit cross-eyed from all the reading, but the information is appropriate for the venue's context and purpose as an educational institution.

Exploring Southeast Asia cherry-picks from the school's rich collection and organises the selection along broad themes for the edification of the student population.

But it serves equally well for casual gallery visitors who might learn from this wide-ranging show, which ambles

gently through a series of themes, from landscapes to identities, common to South-east Asian artists.

My favourite section is Ladies, which brings together some usual suspects – Cheong Soo Pieng and Lee Man Fong – with some less often seen artists.

Tay Chee Toh's batik work *Untitled* (above), with its almost geometric presentation of three lolling ladies, is a standout. Look out, too, for Nafa alumnus and Cultural Medallion recipient Lee Hock Moh's dreamily gorgeous *Fort Canning*, an unusual landscape which depicts the venue in the classic Chinese ink painting style.

WHERE: The Ngee Ann Kongsi Galleries 1 & 2, Nafa Campus 1, 80 Bencoolen Street

MRT: Bencoolen/Bras Basah

WHEN: Till Oct 25, 11am to 7pm daily

ADMISSION: Free **INFO:** str.sg/J8eE

PHOTOS: NANYANG ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, OBJECTIFS, PERCEPTION3, YAN'S DINING